





outstanding teachers. For more information about Bellevue schools, please go to http://bsd405.org and for Issaquah schools, please go to http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/. Both school districts are strongly supported by residents who pass levy and bond measures, make generous contributions, and regularly volunteer in the classrooms. For those seeking higher education, Bellevue is also home to Bellevue Community College as well as easy access to the University of Washington and other noteworthy colleges and universities in the region.

Of course, About Bellevue is not complete without discussing Bellevue's distinctive reputation as being a "City in the Park." Through thoughtful vision and proactive planning, Bellevue has preserved over 1,700 acres of parks and open spaces, with nearly 40 miles of trails for walking or biking. Ten of the City's parks are located on the water. Two examples of unique and award winning parks are: The Bellevue Downtown Park which provides 20 acres of green space in the heart of downtown with formal gardens, a 14-foot waterfall, and a reflecting pool. The Bellevue Botanical Garden attracts visitors from all over the world and has been featured in national and international magazines. Bellevue's parks have received numerous local and national recognition awards including most recently the National Gold Medal Award for Parks and Recreation Management and the Golf Course Environmental Planning Certificate of Achievement.

## **About Bellevue's Government**

The City is governed under the Council-Manager form of government. The City Council consists of seven Council members elected at large to serve staggered four-year terms. The Mayor is elected from within the Council and serves a two-year term. The City Council appoints the City Manager, who in turn appoints the department directors, including the Police and Fire chiefs.

The City employs about 1,260 regular employees and has a 2007-2008 biennial budget of \$966 million. The City Manager's Office, department directors, and department staff work well together, which contributes to a healthy work environment. The City values high performance,



and as such, several departments have received national accreditation, including Police (general Police Department accreditation as well as Communication accreditation both through CALEA), Fire, Parks, and Utilities, with Transportation in the process of being accredited.

Bellevue also embraces public participation on boards and commissions. As such, the City Council or City Manager appoints residents to various boards and commissions that focus on key programs such as arts, environmental services, human services, library, parks and community services, planning, transportation, disability, civil service, and the Bellevue Convention Center. The residents' primary role is to act as advisors to the City on policy and planning decisions. The City has also initiated an innovative board called Youth Link whose members include teenagers as well as adults.





## About Bellevue's Police Department

The Bellevue Police Department (BPD) has on average 260 regular employees with an operating budget of approximately \$36 million. Respect, integrity, accountability and service are the values that guide the actions of the employees who work in the BPD. The department is comprised of two

divisions as follows:

## **Operations**

• Patrol/Traffic/K-9 - This is the largest section in the BPD and its purpose is to maximize public safety by providing timely response to calls for assistance as well as provide active, visible patrol and traffic control throughout the City.

 Investigations and Community Services - This section is comprised of several units: Persons Crimes, Property Crimes, Fraud, School Services, Neighborhood Services, Forensics, Crime Analysis, and the Special Enforcement Team. In addition, this section oversees the Eastside



Narcotics Task Force, comprised of detectives from five local police agencies including Bellevue, Mercer Island, King County, Redmond and Kirkland. This section also manages the essential Volunteer Program which recently completed its 12th year recruiting qualified citizens and carefully matching them to appropriate assignments throughout the Department. This has been an exceptionally valuable program for the Department as demonstrated by the nearly 7,800 hours volunteers contributed in 2006.

• Courts and Custody - This section is responsible for the holding facility, transportation, and handling of prisoners, monitoring and tracking the filing of cases, and Court liaison for the department.

## **Support Services**

- Communications Center This section is the 911 call center and provides emergency dispatch services covering 1,400 square miles. The Center dispatches for 14 Fire Departments and 2 Police Departments. The Center is currently managed by the City of Bellevue in partnership with an InterAgency Governance Committee.
  - Records Information Center This section includes Personnel Services, Records, Property/Evidence, and Fiscal Management. This unit enters and maintains records and evidence as well as directly serving the Bellevue community.

